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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/697,915	10/30/2003	Janani Janakiraman	AUS920030756US1	9641
35525 7590 IBM CORP (YA) C/O YEE & ASSOCIATES PC P.O. BOX 802333 DALLAS, TX 75380			EXAMINER LIOU, ERIC	
			ART UNIT 3628	PAPER NUMBER
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		03/23/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	10/697,915	JANAKIRAMAN ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	Eric Liou	3628

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 30 October 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All
  - b) Some \*
  - c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/30/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Objections*

1. Claims 7 and 11 are objected to because of informalities.
2. As per claim 7, the preamble of the claim should recite “further includes” instead of “includes” in line 4. Appropriate correction is required.
3. As per claim, 11, the term “and” should be replaced with “or” in line 6. Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
5. Claims 1-6, 9-11, 13-17, 20-22, 24, 25-26, and 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nassar, European Patent Application No. EP 1096405 A2 in view of Anderson et al., U.S. Publication No. 2002/0178226.
6. As per claims 1 and 14, Nassar teaches a method and system for rescheduling travel arrangements comprising the steps of: obtaining current travel information for a user to identify a current status of travel of the user (Nassar: column 3, lines 5-9, 43-47 and column 6, lines 20-23) and contacting at least one agency computing device to modify travel accommodations associated with the travel plan in accordance with the altered downstream segments (Nassar: column 3, lines 13-14 and column 6, lines 27-30, The Examiner notes, the reservation module

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12c performs the task of an agency computing device by modifying travel accommodations associated with the travel plan. The additional intermediate step of contacting an agency computing device does not change the end result of modifying travel accommodations and the contacting step by itself is not sufficient to distinguish over Nassar's teachings.).

7. Nassar does not teach responsive to a real-time change in status in at least one segment of a prearranged travel plan for the user, determining whether the user has provided a rule set for making changes to downstream segments of the travel plan, automatically altering the downstream segments of the travel plan according to the rule set, if the user has provided a rule set for making changes to downstream segments of the travel plan, and automatically modifying travel accommodations associated with the travel plan.

8. Anderson teaches responsive to a real-time change in status in at least one segment of a prearranged travel plan for the user, determining whether the user has provided a rule set for making changes to downstream segments of the travel plan (Anderson: paragraph 0017 and paragraph 0020), automatically altering the downstream segments of the travel plan according to the rule set, if the user has provided a rule set for making changes to downstream segments of the travel plan (Anderson: paragraph 0017, "...steps that must be followed in making reservations for travel or lodging"), and automatically modifying travel accommodations associated with the travel plan (Anderson: paragraph 0012, "...automated assistant 100 may interact with at least one e-commerce provider 170 in order to carry out instructions from a user." and paragraph 0029).

9. It would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the method and system of Nassar to have included responsive to a real-time change in status in at least one segment of a prearranged travel plan for

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the user, determining whether the user has provided a rule set for making changes to downstream segments of the travel plan, automatically altering the downstream segments of the travel plan according to the rule set, if the user has provided a rule set for making changes to downstream segments of the travel plan, and automatically modifying travel accommodations associated with the travel plan as taught by Anderson for the advantage of automatically making an alteration in a reservation that the user would not have wanted to be bothered with (Anderson: paragraph 0032).

10. As per claims 2 and 15, Nassar in view of Anderson teaches the method and system of claims 1 and 14 as described above. Nassar further teaches retrieving the prearranged travel plan from a storage device (Nassar: Figure 1, "10" and column 6, lines 16-30); and comparing the prearranged travel plan to the current travel information, wherein a real-time change in status in at least one segment of the prearranged travel plan is determined if a result of the comparison indicates a discrepancy between the prearranged travel plan and the current travel information (Nassar: column 3, lines 5-14 and column 6, lines 16-30).

11. As per claim 3, Nassar in view of Anderson teaches the method of claim 1 as described above. Nassar further teaches the prearranged travel plan is obtained as travel arrangements are finalized by a user via at least one web site (Nassar: Figure 1, "20a" and paragraph 0033).

12. As per claim 4, Nassar in view of Anderson teaches the method claim 1 as described above. Nassar further teaches the prearranged travel plan is obtained by receiving user input to at least one Web form provided by at least one server, identifying information regarding segments of the prearranged travel plan (Nassar: Figure 1, "16" and "20a", and paragraph 0033).

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13. As per claims 5 and 16, Nassar in view of Anderson teaches the method and system of claims 2 and 15 as described above. Anderson further teaches the rule set includes information indicating under what conditions a discrepancy between the prearranged travel plan and the current travel information is to be resolved by altering downstream segments of the prearranged travel plan (Anderson: paragraph 0029, "In one embodiment, whether or not automated assistant 100 would engage in making such arrangements on behalf of a user would depend on whether or not information within rules 136 indicates that the user is willing to allow automated assistant 100 to do so.").

14. It would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the method and system of Nassar in view of Anderson to have included the rule set includes information indicating under what conditions a discrepancy between the prearranged travel plan and the current travel information is to be resolved by altering downstream segments of the prearranged travel plan as taught by Anderson for the advantage of automatically making an alteration in a reservation that the user would not have wanted to be bothered with (Anderson: paragraph 0032).

15. As per claims, 6 and 17, Nassar in view of Anderson teaches the method and system of claims 5 and 16 as described above. Anderson further teaches the rule set further includes information indicating a manner by which a discrepancy is to be resolved (Anderson: paragraph 0017, "steps that must be followed in making reservations for travel or lodging").

16. It would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the method and system of Nassar in view of Anderson to have included information indicating a manner by which a discrepancy is to be resolved as

taught by Anderson for the advantage of providing a method and system that automatically makes an alteration in a reservation that the user would not have wanted to be bothered with (Anderson: paragraph 0032).

17. As per claims 9 and 20, Nassar in view of Anderson teaches the method and system of claims 1 and 14 as described above. Nassar further teaches identifying a plurality of prearranged travel plans for a plurality of users in a travel plan storage device (Nassar: Figure 1, "10" and column 4, lines 12-14); for each prearranged travel plan, determining if the travel plan is currently active (Nassar: Figure 1 and column 6, lines 16-30, The Examiner notes, the notification module 12b performs the task of determining if the travel plan is currently active when monitoring a specific event.); and performing the steps of obtaining, determining, altering and contacting for each currently active prearranged travel plan in the travel plan storage device (Nassar: Figure 1, "10", column 4, lines 12-14, and column 6, lines 16-30).

18. As per claims 10 and 21, Nassar in view of Anderson teaches the method and system of claims 1 and 14 as described above. Nassar further teaches the current travel information is obtained from at least one current travel information source computing device (Nassar: column 2, lines 11-15 and column 3, lines 5-9).

19. As per claims 11 and 22, Nassar in view of Anderson teaches the method and system of claims 10 and 21 as described above. Nassar further teaches the at least one current travel information source computing device includes at least one of an airline computing system, a travel agency computing system, a transportation provider computing system, a lodging provider computing system, and a government agency computing system (Nassar: column 2, lines 11-18).

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20. As per claims 13 and 24, Nassar in view of Anderson teaches the method and system of claims 1 and 14 as described above. Nassar further teaches sending a notification to a communication device associated with the user indicating the altered downstream segments of the travel plan and the modified travel accommodations (Nassar: Figure 1, column 3, lines 9-12, and column 11, lines 1-15).

21. As per claim 25, Nassar teaches a computer program product in a computer readable medium for rescheduling travel arrangements (Nassar: column 6, lines 16-17) comprising: first instructions for obtaining current travel information for a user to identify a current status of travel of the user (Nassar: column 3, lines 5-9, 43-47 and column 6, lines 20-23) and fourth instructions for automatically contacting at least one agency computing device to modify travel accommodations associated with the travel plan in accordance with the altered downstream segments (Nassar: column 3, lines 13-14 and column 6, lines 27-30, The Examiner notes, the reservation module 12c performs the task of an agency computing device by modifying travel accommodations associated with the travel plan. The additional intermediate step of contacting an agency computing device does not change the end result of modifying travel accommodations and the contacting step by itself is not sufficient to distinguish over Nassar's teachings.).

22. Nassar does not teach second instructions for determining, responsive to a real-time change in status in at least one segment of a prearranged travel plan for the user, whether the user has provided a rule set for making changes to downstream segments of the travel plan, third instructions for automatically altering the downstream segments of the travel plan according to the rule set, if the user has provided a rule set for making changes to downstream segments of the

travel plan, and instructions for automatically modifying travel accommodations associated with the travel plan.

23. Anderson teaches second instructions for determining, responsive to a real-time change in status in at least one segment of a prearranged travel plan for the user, whether the user has provided a rule set for making changes to downstream segments of the travel plan (Anderson: paragraph 0017 and paragraph 0020), third instructions for automatically altering the downstream segments of the travel plan according to the rule set, if the user has provided a rule set for making changes to downstream segments of the travel plan (Anderson: paragraph 0017, “...steps that must be followed in making reservations for travel or lodging”), and automatically modifying travel accommodations associated with the travel plan (Anderson: paragraph 0012, “...automated assistant 100 may interact with at least one e-commerce provider 170 in order to carry out instructions from a user.” and paragraph 0029).

24. It would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the computer program product of Nassar to have included second instructions for determining, responsive to a real-time change in status in at least one segment of a prearranged travel plan for the user, whether the user has provided a rule set for making changes to downstream segments of the travel plan, third instructions for automatically altering the downstream segments of the travel plan according to the rule set, if the user has provided a rule set for making changes to downstream segments of the travel plan, and instructions for automatically modifying travel accommodations associated with the travel plan as taught by Anderson for the advantage of automatically making an alteration in a reservation that the user would not have wanted to be bothered with (Anderson: paragraph 0032).

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25. As per claim 26, Nassar in view of Anderson teaches the computer program product of claim 25 as described above. Nassar further teaches fifth instructions for retrieving the prearranged travel plan from a storage device (Nassar: Figure 1, "10" and column 6, lines 16-30) and sixth instructions for comparing the prearranged travel plan to the current travel information, wherein a real-time change in status in at least one segment of the prearranged travel plan is determined if a result of the comparison indicates a discrepancy between the prearranged travel plan and the current travel information (Nassar: column 3, lines 5-14 and column 6, lines 16-30).

26. As per claim 28, Nassar in view of Anderson teaches the computer program product of claim 25 as described above. Nassar further teaches fifth instructions for identifying a plurality of prearranged travel plans for a plurality of users in a travel plan storage device (Nassar: Figure 1, "10" and column 4, lines 12-14); sixth instructions for determining, for each prearranged travel plan, if the travel plan is currently active (Nassar: Figure 1 and column 6, lines 16-30, The Examiner notes, the notification module 12b performs the task of determining if the travel plan is currently active when monitoring a specific event.); and seventh instructions for executing the first, second, third and fourth instructions for each currently active prearranged travel plan in the travel plan storage device (Nassar: Figure 1, "10", column 4, lines 12-14, and column 6, lines 16-30).

27. As per claim 29, Nassar in view of Anderson teaches the computer program product of claim 25 as described above. Nassar further teaches fifth instructions for sending a notification to a communication device associated with the user indicating the altered downstream segments of the travel plan and the modified travel accommodations (Nassar: Figure 1, column 3, lines 9-12, and column 11, lines 1-15).

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28. As per claim 30, Nassar in view of Anderson teaches a method, in a data processing system, of monitoring a travel itinerary of a traveler, comprising: obtaining current travel condition information (Nassar: column 3, lines 5-9); obtaining a travel itinerary for the traveler (Nassar: column 3, lines 5-9, 43-47 and column 6, lines 20-23); comparing the current travel condition information to the travel itinerary to identify differences (Nassar: column 3, lines 5-12, "...checks with the airline or other travel reservation information system for that particular flight to see if the flight has been delayed or canceled."); modifying travel accommodations in the travel itinerary if it is determined that a modification of travel accommodations in the travel itinerary is necessary (Nassar: column 3, lines 13-14).

29. Nassar does not teach applying one or more rules to the differences to determine if a modification of travel accommodations in the travel itinerary is necessary.

30. Anderson teaches applying one or more rules to the differences to determine if a modification of travel accommodations in the travel itinerary are necessary (Anderson: paragraphs 0017 and 0029).

31. It would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the method of Nassar to have included applying one or more rules to the differences to determine if a modification of travel accommodations in the travel itinerary is necessary as taught by Anderson for the advantage of automatically making an alteration in a reservation that the user would not have wanted to be bothered with (Anderson: paragraph 0032).

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32. Claim 7-8, 18-19, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nassar, European Patent Application No. EP 1096405 A2 in view of Anderson et al., U.S. Publication No. 2002/0178226 and further in view of Brice et al., U.S. Publication No. 2004/0128193.

33. As per claims 7 and 18, Nassar in view of Anderson teaches the method and system of claims 1 and 14 as described above. Nassar further teaches using an agency computing device to obtain new travel accommodations and applying user established preferences (Nassar: column 3, lines 52-54 and column 6, lines 27-30). Nassar in view of Anderson does not teach negotiating a travel accommodation.

34. Brice teaches negotiating a travel accommodation (Brice: Figure 1 and paragraph 0052, "...negotiated deals with selected carriers (step 320).").

35. It would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the method and system of Nassar in view of Anderson to have included negotiating a travel accommodation as taught by Brice for the advantage of providing a method and system that provides purchase offers that meet the needs of a potential buyer and simultaneously represent the merchandising goals of the seller, its supplier partners, and its reseller partners (Brice: paragraph 0006).

36. As per claims 8 and 19, Nassar in view of Anderson and further in view of Brice teaches the method and system of claims 7 and 18 as described above. Nassar further teaches the user established preferences indicate a user preference regarding at least one of a preferred type of travel accommodation and a preferred vendor of a travel accommodation (Nassar: column 3,

lines 52-54 and column 7, lines 8-10 and 27-37, The Examiner interprets the user created profile preferences to include a preferred vendor of a travel accommodation.).

37. As per claim 27, Nassar in view of Anderson teaches the computer program product of claim 25 as described above. Nassar further teaches instructions for using an agency computing device to obtain new travel accommodations and applying user established preferences (Nassar: column 3, lines 52-54 and column 6, lines 27-30). Nassar in view of Anderson does not teach negotiating a travel accommodation.

38. Brice teaches negotiating a travel accommodation (Brice: Figure 1 and paragraph 0052, "...negotiated deals with selected carriers (step 320).").

39. It would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the computer program product of Nassar in view of Anderson to have included negotiating a travel accommodation as taught by Brice for the advantage of providing a method and system that provides purchase offers that meet the needs of a potential buyer and simultaneously represent the merchandising goals of the seller, its supplier partners, and its reseller partners (Brice: paragraph 0006).

40. Claims 12 and 23 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nassar, European Patent Application No. EP 1096405 A2 in view of Anderson et al., U.S. Publication No. 2002/0178226 and further in view of Zobell et al., U.S. Patent No., 6,606553.

41. As per claims 12 and 23, Nassar in view of Anderson teaches the method and system of claims 10 and 21 as described above. Nassar in view of Anderson does not teach the at least one

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current travel information source includes an Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC) computing system.

42. Zobell teaches the at least one current travel information source includes an Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC) computing system (Zobell: column 12, lines 35-36).

43. It would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the method and system of Nassar in view of Anderson to have included the at least one current travel information source includes an Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC) computing system as taught by Zobell for the advantage of providing a method and system for effective weather rerouting decision support based on frequently updated weather forecasts (Zobell: column 3, lines 15-19).

### *Conclusion*

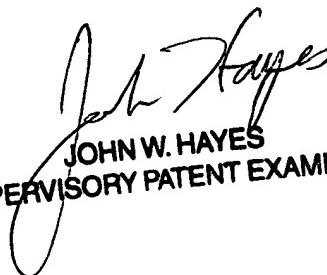
The Examiner has cited particular portions of the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested that the applicant, in preparing the responses, fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Liou whose telephone number is 571-270-1359. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:00-5:30.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on 571-272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



JOHN W. HAYES  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER